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# Near East/North Africa Report

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PAPER DEPLORES IRAQ-IRAN WAR, CLAIMS ONLY ISRAEL WILL BENEFIT

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 24 Sep 80 p 1

[Editorial: "An Armed Conflict Which Can Only Weaken Arabs and Muslims"]

[Text] Algiers (APS [Algerian Press Service])--It is with profound sadness and growing anxiety that the Algerian people and all Arab and Muslim peoples as a whole are reading daily about the bloody--and increasingly serious--confrontations between Iraq and Iran. How could one not be sad, how could one not be anxious at the sight of two neighbor and brother countries waging murderous battles against each other? Battles which can only weaken Arabs and Muslims just as they rejoice and strengthen their declared enemies, imperialists and Zionists in the first place...

In truth, it is also with some perplexity that our peoples are watching this drama, and they are wondering about the consequences of such a conflict at such a time. Until the past few weeks, in fact, the reality of the Arab and Muslim world was characterized by two essential facts: on the one hand, imperialism and its advanced bastion, Israel, were becoming more virulent and aggressive and--thanks to the complicity of the Cairo regime--were increasing their oppression of the Palestinian people, and they had consummated the worst provocation, the pure and simple annexation of the sacred city of El Qods. On the other hand and above all, a number of factors had greatly contributed to closing the ranks of Arab and Muslim peoples, to reinforcing considerably their power and to giving an indication that they could hope to oppose victoriously the attacks of their enemies, in particular the arrogant challenge of the Zionists.

But suddenly there arose this fratricide war between Baghdad and Tehran. Who could benefit from it, but Tel Aviv?

Press agencies mention border disputes.

The essential fact today is that Israel has challenged the whole Muslim world at El Qods, it is the declared intention of Zionists to perpetuate and consolidate their brutal occupation of Arab land. This, to an Arab and to a Muslim, is the essential fact. The rest is and should be only accessory.

Algeria, the Algerian people, want to believe that wisdom will prevail, that disputes will be resolved, as they should, through peaceful talks, through solutions discussed between brothers, in an atmosphere of sincerity and frankness. This is certainly fervently hoped for by all Arab and Muslim peoples who, in these gloomy days, are worried about, and revolted by a conflict in which they instinctively know that, in the end, they will be the only losers. Arab emancipation and the affirmation of Islam were contemplating a propitious road ahead of them. Who, facing hundreds of millions of Arabs and Muslims, would wish to put these in question again because of an "accident along the road?"

9294

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## INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

### REVIVAL OF COOPERATION BETWEEN ALGERIA, MAURITANIA

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 21 Sep 80 p 3

[Article: "Revival of Algerian-Mauritanian Cooperation. A Large Algerian Delegation Goes to Nouakchott"]

[Text] Algiers (APS [Algerian Press Agency])--Mr Djelloul Bakhti Nemmiche, member of the central committee and minister for Veterans' Affairs, left Algiers yesterday morning, at the head of a large delegation; he is chairman of the Algerian delegation to the joint Algerian-Mauritanian committee.

Prior to his departure, Mr Nemmiche underlined that this meeting "is not an ordinary meeting, but represents a revival of the cooperation between the two countries, who are friends and neighbors."

He stressed that the questions discussed in Nouakchott will include the finalization of several projects and the beginning of their execution in the near future. Among others, these include, the Nouadhibou oil refinery, the Nouakchott sugar refinery, and the revival of the joint fishing company which had ceased its activities after Mokhtar Ould Daddah had become involved in the Western Sahara conflict.

The joint committee will also examine an agreement on mining and geological exploration: Mauritania intends to create an office specializing in this field, with the participation of Algerian technical personnel.

Cooperation also includes job-training, public health and education.

The minister of Veterans Affairs specified that all projects are at an advanced stage of their preparation. "Our visit to Nouakchott," he said, "corresponds to their implementation." It should be stressed that normalization of the cooperation between the two countries started last November, when the Algiers-Nouakchott airline was reopened.



SEVEN RUSSIAN GENERALS REPORTED KILLED IN AFGHAN FIGHTING

Karachi JASARAT In Urdu 5 Aug 80 pp 3, 6

[Article: "Seven Russian Generals and 39 Soldiers Killed by Afghan Mujahidin; One Tank and Two Armored Vehicles Destroyed in an Attack on Kandahar's Military Complex; Two Helicopters Downed in Jalalabad"]

[Text] Kabul, 4 August (PPI/Radio Report)--According to the latest news from Afghanistan, fierce battles were fought between the freedom fighters and the army of the Karmal government in Balakh Province. According to Radio Kabul, the Mujahidin used knives, swords and other such weapons in these skirmishes. The activities of the Mujahidin have increased in all Afghanistan, and they are attacking army caravans, remote military cantonments, and communication stations. The Mujahidin attacked a military training school in Kandahar and killed 39 soldiers there. They also destroyed one tank, two armored vehicles, two jeeps and a number of other army vehicles.

According to some sources, seven Russian generals have so far been killed in Afghanistan. The Russian officials are very concerned about this. They have begun to think that their involvement in Afghanistan will be as costly as the American involvement in Vietnam. The Mujahidin are still very active in Jalalabad, even after the increase in the Russian Army stationed there. The Mujahidin attacked the airfield in Jalalabad and destroyed one tank and two helicopters. The Russian soldiers are forced to erect fortifications at various points on roads to fight off the Mujahidin.

According to the BBC, a high ranking officer of the Russian intelligence agency was killed outside his residence in Kabul. The BBC added that this news was received a week ago, and has been confirmed by a source found to be highly reliable in the past. The Russian officer was a brigadier and was charged with all intelligence activities in the border area adjoining Pakistan. He was responsible for recruiting agents from among the tribes in those provinces where anti-Karmal activities are heavy.

The same sources also report that the Russian Army spent 10 days to crush the rebellion in the 14th Armored Afghan Battalion. This revolt was caused when attempts were made to appoint a member of Parcham party as officer of this unit.

The government has decided to recruit teachers to increase the number of troops. Last night, Kabul Radio announced that all teachers were required to join the army.

7997

CSO: 4203

MUJAHIDIN KILL NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF KHALQ FACTION

Karachi JASARAT In Urdu 13 Aug 80 pp 3, 14

[Article: "Rebellion by Babrak Karmal Soldiers Feared by Russian Army; Mujahidin Kill dozens of Khalq Party Members; Successful Attacks at Various Places; Afghan Children Still Being Brainwashed, Tortured Until Oath of Allegiance Is Taken"]

[Text] New Delhi, (APP/PPI/UPI/APA/Radio Report)--Afghan Mujahidin attacked Pul-i-(Sakai) and killed many members of the Khalq faction. The Mujahidin attacked a bus carrying members of the Khalq faction party and killed many communists. According to news arriving from Kabul, two high officials of the Communist Party were killed in Sarubi. There was bitter fighting between the Khalq and Parcham factions in Sarubi, resulting in the death of two Afghan officers and two Russian soldiers. The Mujahidin attacked and defeated an Afghan company of soldiers in Ruday District of Mangarhar Province. They also destroyed stores owned by Khalq faction members. The Mujahidin killed five members of Khalq in (Nadir Shah Kot). The Mujahidin killed seven Russians and captured six machineguns in (Khogiani) District. They also destroyed the residence of the deputy Commissioner and other officers of the Khalq faction.

A former high official of the Afghanistan government has accused the present puppet government of abusing and brainwashing Afghan children. This officer said that children are tortured until they take the oath of allegiance to the present government.

According to Radio Kabul, at least 15 Mujahidin were killed in a bloody battle between the government army and the Mujahidin in Herat. Government forces claim that they have captured 35 soldiers along with their arms and ammunition. It should be remembered that a number of battles have been taking place in the Herat area.

According to the BBC, the Russian Army is worried about a rebellion by Karmal government troops. The Voice of Germany reports that according

to some diplomatic sources a great battle was fought between the Russian Army and the rebellious Karmal government army in Ghazni. A large number of soldiers were killed. According to Moscow Radio, the Mujahidin have captured Falzabad, the main city in Badakhshan. Moscow Radio further announced that Russian and Karmal troops have recaptured Dakhan District from the Mujahidin. The radio further said that the Mujahidin have devastated (Kandaz), Falzabad, and (Shahra Parelou).

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will take place. As far as we are concerned, that is as Algerians, we, of course, associate ourselves with the anxiety felt by all Third-World countries concerning the manifest failure of their attempts at getting themselves out of their present underdevelopment. The North-South dialogue, which had raised many hopes, has unfortunately not led to any results, and the last United Nations' session, which was devoted to this problem, has confirmed our worst fears."

Still speaking of the present international situation, the ambassador added:

"We are also directly concerned by the threats which are now hanging over the Middle-East situation. Israel's aggressive policy increases the threats which have never ceased to hang on this area, and it might lead to tragic developments. These elements, to mention only these, cannot fail to be reflected in the proceedings of the UNESCO conference, both with respect to aspects of development and with respect to the problems concerning El-Qods and the cultural situation in the occupied territories. These are very important questions which have been placed on the agenda of the general conference, and on which the delegations of Arab countries will have to agree on a joint action in the commissions which will have to deal with these problems. The Algerian delegation, chaired by Mr Bessaïeh, member of the Central Committee and minister of Information and Culture, will, of course, add its contribution to this joint action, both within the Arab group and within the African group, to which it also belongs, and with nonaligned countries and countries of the group of the 77.

"Within its own field of action," the Algerian ambassador went on, "the UNESCO, this year, will have to give special attention to the problems of science and technology. Former general conferences had already stressed the close connection which must exist between the development of Third-World countries and their access to science and technology under favorable conditions which should be strengthened from year to year. The general conference which is about to open shall have to take into consideration the results of the conference organized by the United Nations in Vienna in September 1979, which had been devoted precisely to science and technology in the service of development. The general conference shall have to examine the results of this conference and to study the means which UNESCO has at its disposal to ensure that implementation of the resolutions adopted is started; in this connection, the draft UNESCO program provides for a number of large projects intended to cover the various aspects of the problem of science and technology and their utilization to promote development in the Third-World."

Concerning another major object of the conference--the problem of communication and information-- Mr Rahal recalled that "this is not the first time that UNESCO has dealt with this problem. Discussions on this subject have led to increasingly clear principles, increasingly precise definitions,

and lines of action which would create an international order for communication, with more justice, objectivity and permeability, as far as information is concerned, between all members of the international community. This year, the general conference will have at its disposal, for its deliberations, an important report prepared by a commission chaired by Mr. Marc Brille, who had been appointed to study for UNESCO the various aspects of the wide-ranging problem of communication. In this domain, as in the domain of economic development, two points of view are opposing each other more or less violently: that of Third World countries and that of developed countries. The opposition of these points of view should not result in a confrontation during the discussions. This is the wish of Third-World delegations who, during the general conference, shall strive to better define their own objectives and to formulate demands which may be acceptable to developed countries."

The Algerian ambassador felt that it was important to add that, beyond these major themes, "the general conference provides an occasion for multiple contacts between officials of various countries, in the fields of culture, science and education." "The possibility of such contacts and discussions between officials," he thought, "is not the least benefit to be derived from a meeting as important as this one."

In conclusion, the Algerian permanent delegate to the UNESCO indicated that, this year again, Algeria shall make its contribution to the cultural events by organizing an Algerian-culture day within the context of the Arab-culture days which will be organized in Belgrade.

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CSO:4400

IRAQ ALLEGEDLY WANTS TO BECOME 'GENDARME OF THE GULF'

Paris LE FIGARO in French 27 Sep 80 pp 62-64

[Article by Robert Lacontre: "Iran-Iraq: Saddam Hussein's Slap at Khomeyni"]

[Text] Where will the surprise offensive mounted by the Iraqi army stop as it runs into the disorganized Iranian troops? This time, Saddam Hussein has decided to teach Khomeyni a lesson. Baghdad wants to become the "policeman in the Gulf" now in turn.

The children are no longer bathing in the Shatt el Arab, sitting on the backs of buffaloes. The tankers of all countries likewise have deserted this wide arm of the sea formed by the muddy waters of the Tigris and Euphrates. They now crowd off the ports of Saudi Arabia and the Emirates. There are already more than 500 of them, waiting there. This is the biggest bottleneck in the Gulf where one tanker usually leaves every 6 minutes.

The battle has been raging for the past 10 days. The guns keep thundering endlessly. One can clearly hear the whistle of the shells and their dull explosions about 50 kilometers away, like a violent thunderstorm. This is particularly true at Kuwait which is very nearby and everybody is very worried because Baghdad has always had its eye on that part of the desert with the black gold in it. The artillery duel across the big river has replaced the chant of the women as they spread out the strands of lively-colored wool to dry on the flat roofs of the houses. The Iraqi fire is much stronger. They are using the Russian method. They put up an incessant carpet of artillery fire before sending the tanks and mounted infantry forward. Time and again, on both sides of this water frontier, a thatched cottage or a mosque will explode in a cloud of dust. The nomads have folded their tents and have taken their baggage to escape from the region on their camels.

The inferno is all around a little village by the name of Abul Khasil as it is burned by the sun. It is 33 degrees. It had been 51 degrees a week ago. There, the green-clad soldiers of Saddam Hussein concentrated more than 200 pieces of 155-mm artillery which without respite pound the town



opposite, Khorramshahr, and Abadan (population 500,000), 1000 km in 6000 meters from the eastern bank, the site of the world's biggest refinery. The Bassorah petrochemical center in turn is under fire from the Iranians. Bombs and rockets keep cutting down 20 million trees of this vast palm plantation. With a deafening roar, Soviet Migs and American Phantoms face each other in the sky. The Iraqi air force bombs Tehran. The Iranian air force bombs Baghdad. The characteristic neon signs of the Iraqi countryside no longer light up the night-time sky. The entire strip along the border is plunged in darkness, as are the big cities. Without light, Baghdad looks dark like a tunnel. Tehran is trembling with fear. The air is hot and humid and is full of petroleum, dust, and powder.

Suddenly the region has burst into flames. The first tanks filled to the top with precious liquid explode. Tracer bullets cut through the night with their high arcs of steel. Against the flashes from the explosions and the burning fires, the derricks and minarets rise with their phantom-like silhouettes like a scary color film.

In a downpour of war communiques, each of the two belligerents describes his victories without anybody being able exactly to verify what really goes on. The war of radio waves is in full swing. Yesterday, Radio Baghdad announced that Khomeyni was dead. Today, it says that the American hostages have been released. The Iranian radio declares that an incalculable number of enemy aircraft has been downed. In her exile, the Shabana calls upon the people, who condemned her, to save her fatherland. According to certain rumors, the son of the Shah, Prince Reza Pahlevi is to be crowned emperor next month on the occasion of his 21st birthday.

The Iraqi Army--13 divisions strong, including half of them armored divisions, with 2,500 tanks and 300 combat aircraft--has seized the advantage over its adversary who has been totally disorganized for more than a year as a result of the Islamic revolution and the preachings of the fanatical ayatollah. It is known that more than half of the soldiers in the Iranian army, which until now was considered the strongest in this part of the world, simply vanished out in the field long before the lightning attack by its neighbor. The rest are today abandoning their divisions in full rout. The Iraqis have already broken through at three points. In the northeast, along the only road linking Iraq to Iran, at Qasr el Shirin, at Nafli Shah, and Ilam. The attackers recovered 150 square kilometers of territory which they had been claiming and they are moving on toward Kermanshah. In the center, on the level of Susa, where Aeschylus had placed his tragedy "The Persians," heading toward Dizful. In the south, starting from the eastern part of the Shatt el Arab, which belongs to Iraq, the armored units are carrying out a pincer movement. One column is thrusting toward Susangere and Ahwaz. Another one, to all appearances, without encountering any resistance, has already encircled Abadan and is firing on Bandar Shahpur.

The lightning war mounted by Baghdad, which has surprised everybody, particularly the Russians and the Americans, has a quadruple objective:

(1) To administer to its centuries-old enemy a drubbing. We might say that this is a case of settling old accounts. And that also means its enemy of yesterday who supported the Kurdish revolt for 15 years. (2) To deliver a big slap to Khomeini who has stirred up trouble among the Shiite population of Iraq, the majority in the country, whereas power is "in the hands of the Sunnites." (3) To wipe out the concessions made to the Shah, a few acres of land here and there and control over the east bank of the Shatt el Arab over its last 50 kilometers before it flows into the sea. (4) To assert its position henceforth as the guardian of the Gulf.

### Revenge

The important thing for Saddam Hussein now is to move very fast, to take maximum advantage before the two super powers agree on forcing a ceasefire on him. In summary, history repeats itself. Iraq wanted to teach Iran a good lesson, just as China did recently with respect to Vietnam. It is no longer impossible that Baghdad might in this way seek to get rid of the "turban-wearing shah" who is running the risk of being overthrown by a military plot aimed at saving what can still be saved from the current religious chaos.

The "country between the two rivers," Mesopotamia, thus has taken its revenge upon the Persians, upon their constant raids, upon two centuries of occupation and oppression. Niniveh, today called Mossul, can now forget the affront inflicted by the Scythians who came down from the Turkish steppes and by the arrogant Medes of Iran. "Those from the west" finally have been able successfully to cross the border into the east, the same border of 1,200 kilometers which had been surveyed in 1639 by the Ottoman Sultan Murad IV and his Turkish and Arab warriors after having disembowelled the Shah Abbas II in a fight to the finish. Closer to our time, the Algiers accord, 5 years ago, is now meaningless. Baghdad is taking back what it had yielded to the Shah-an-Shah so that he might stop supporting the "Peshmergas" of Kurdistan.

To top the whole thing off, it only remains for the Iraqis now to drive the Iranians out of the three islands which they occupied by force 8 years ago, in the Strait of Ormuz, called "Little Tomb" and "Big Tomb" islands which belong to the tiny Emirate of Ras el Kheimah and "Abu Musna" which belongs to Sharjah. There are some reports about a column of tanks which is supposedly moving toward Bandar Abbas, right opposite Ras Musandam, of the Sultanate of Oman. That might well be a useless and foolish run of 1,000 kilometers in a rocky desert where there is no road. These little islands are not even strategic. As a matter of fact, they are tiny and they are separated from each other by about 20 kilometers; besides, they are more than 100 kilometers from the strait. To that we might add on the other hand that, contrary to what is generally said, the Strait of Ormuz is not a choke point. It is wider than the Initial Channel, about 40 kilometers. It is essentially guarded by the American fleet and the French fleet.

The danger for the West is a double one: (1) the Iranian navy of Admiral Madani, governor of Khuzistan (Arabistan, according to Iraq where 3 million Sunni Arabs live) is not in as much trouble as the army. It can still block the estuary of Shatt el Arab and prevent the exports of Iraqi black gold; (2) the complete breakdown of Iran would facilitate Soviet penetration toward the Persian Gulf, hence, the Arabian Gulf. Now, Saddam Hussein knows very well that it is not in his interest to have Iran break up into little pieces because the Russians would install themselves there in force and would then run the oil wells. Finally, this kind of neighborhood situation would be much more troublesome.

Who is that Iraqi who has set fire to the powder keg in an area that is sufficiently explosive anyway? Tall, strapping, with a Stalin-like mustache, cold, not to say glacial, often wearing a Kurdish turban, ostentatiously patting the cheeks of little girls before the cameras, a big Havana cigar constantly between his teeth, the Baghdad dictator distinguished himself in the struggle against the crazy Kassem who had overthrown the monarchy in a blood bath. Wounded, imprisoned, escaping, he then organized the party's secret service, and then the Ba'athist militia. In 1968, 1969, and 1970, already acting as the regime's "strongman," he triggered bloody purges. He discovered real or phony plots as a pretext for numerous executions. He gradually eliminated the rightists, the leftists, the communists, all of those who opposed his decisions. He expelled 25,000 Shiites from Iraq under shocking conditions. Repression was so bad that it is difficult today to figure out how the "partisans" of Khomeyni could rebel once again. "If that were the case," it is said in Baghdad, "there would be a third river in Iraq, a real river of blood." Everything is calm today at Nadjaf and Kerbala, the strongpoints of Iraqi Shiism where the remains of Hussein, brother of the martyred Imam Ali are kept and the son of Ali, who was treacherously slain by the Omayyad soldiers. Khomeyni lived in exile for 15 years at Nadjaf, before being expelled to please the Shah and before being received fondly by France.

Sadam Hussein, whose primary objective is his country's economic development, in recent times has moved closer to the West, not because of a sudden change in ideology, but because he has realized that he can no longer go to the USSR to get advanced technology. With the \$18 billion per year which he gets from his oil wells, among other things at Zubair (France's second-ranking supplier after Saudi Arabia), he can really modernize his country and extricate his people from the Middle Ages. In reality he remains a Third-Worldist, a revolutionary and a progressive. Iraqi Ba'athism in the final analysis is very close to Marxism. Besides, Baghdad has the ambition of becoming a regional power.

However, his hands are tied by the USSR regarding his army and his air force. Only recently did he begin to try to diversify his armaments by going to France, Italy, and Spain. He signed a "friendship and cooperation treaty" with Moscow. He paid for the Russian tanks with gold ingots. He knows only too well that the Kremlin can put pressure upon him at any moment

by supplying him with spare parts in dribs and drabs or by utilizing the Iraqi Communist Party, the only really effective communist party in the Arab World, by assigning it some subversive missions, perhaps by stirring up the Kurds. He must therefore be very cautious with his "big protector." This is why he has sent his right-hand man, vice president Tarik Aziz, a Christian, to Moscow to test the reactions of the Russian oligarchs to his military adventures. We must not forget that Baghdad supported the Eritrean rebels against Sovietized Ethiopia but it withdrew its aid to Somalia after the latter let the Americans use the naval base at Berbera which had been built at the expense of the Soviet taxpayer. Today, Sadat Hussein very cautiously avoids taking sides with the Afghan Muslim patriots. His alliance with Moscow thus is not at all laid to rest.

#### And What About the Kurds?

There remains one vital problem for Iraq--the problem of the Kurds. The relative current tranquility of these mountain warriors certainly does not mean that they do not have to be watched very closely at all times. There are more than 10 million Kurds in three neighboring countries, Turkey, Iran, and Iraq. There are 3 million Kurds in Iraq<sup>1</sup>, including half in the autonomous zone. There are also 300,000 in Baghdad. For the past 15 years, these indomitable mountaineers have been fiercely fighting the government in Baghdad with the help of the Shah. For the past 15 years, they formed a kind of "de facto" state along inaccessible slopes<sup>2</sup>, under the direction of the big feudal leader Mustapha Barzani, the long-term leader of the national movement. The Iraqi armies have never been able to penetrate their strongholds. It took the Shah to betray them and to turn off the flow of supplies before they would stop resisting. Barzani died last year in exile in the United States (he had lived in the USSR for 11 years). His remains were taken back to the country in a special aircraft. Thousands of warriors had come down from the heights to pay him their last homage. Today there is no indication whatsoever that the Kurds have definitely been subjugated.

Now the machine guns take the mud huts in the villages, the fallow land, the artesian wells and the old bucket-chain operators who keep turning the wheel while grinning. The guns keep thundering constantly. The sand storm covers the irrigation canal, which it took many months to dig, in a matter of a few hours. The salt continues to rise up the underground water level, nibbling away at the few patches of green in the oases. The peasants are in hiding. Early in the morning, the village women, who do not wear any veils, the Iraqi women, go out looking for water which they carry very gracefully in huge jugs on their heads. An infernal uproar suddenly makes them dive into the basements of their huts. Hedge-hopping Migs race toward the sun in search of their targets. Higher up in the clouds, phantom aircraft, going in the opposite direction, are heading for the industrial cities. The guns are still roaring. This is war, real war.

#### FOOTNOTES

1. Iraq, 12 million inhabitants on an area almost equal to that of France; Iran, 34 million inhabitants, surface area three times greater than France.
2. The Iranian part of Kurdistan is more penetrable to regular armies.

5058

CSO: 4900

REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS TO GET ARMY TRAINING

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 31 Aug 80 p 3

[Text] The three-day seminar on coordination among the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, held to discuss and survey the problems among the armed forces and other armed and unarmed revolutionary institutions, concluded its work by adopting a six-point resolution.

The resolution which has been made public in a statement release by the Political and Ideological Department of the Joint Staff of the Army makes the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran duty-bound to undertake the military training required by the Revolutionary Guards Corps, the Revolutionary Committees and the 20-million strong army within the framework of its resources and to meet their needs for military hardware and ammunitions.

The text of the release by the Political and Ideological Department of the Joint Staff of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran reads as follows:

"In the name of God, the Clement and the Merciful:

"In compliance with the order of the Imam, a seminar was held at the Political and Ideological Department of the Joint Staff of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran for ever more strengthening, harmonizing and solidifying the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and for bettering the relationships among the military-security organizations and the other revolutionary institutions and for guarding against irresponsible mutual interference of these organizations and institutions in one another's affairs. Presided over by Hojjatol-Eslam Eshraqi [Khomeyni's son-in-law], the special representative of the Imam, the seminar lasted three days and concluded its work at 2000 hours on Thursday, 6 Shahrivar [28 August] by issuing a resolution.

"Held in an atmosphere of complete sincerity and understanding, the seminar was attended by the Prime Minister, the Judge and Prosecutor of the Islamic Revolutionary Courts, the representative of the Vigilante Council of the Constitution, the representatives of the High Council of Judges, the General



appointed as Acting Chief of the Joint Staff of the Army, the commanders of three tripartite forces of the Army, the representatives of the Revolutionary Guards Corps and of the Central Revolutionary Committee, the chiefs of the security organizations, a number of the professors and the officials of the revolutionary institutions, and the representatives of the governmental organizations that were related to military and security issues. The participants discussed problems and solutions for various plans and arrived at a valuable conclusion which is summed up in a twelve-point resolution. The highlights and the most important points of the said resolution are as follows:

1. The Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been charged with the duty to provide the military training required by the Revolutionary Guards Corps, the Revolutionary Committees and the 20-million [sic] strong army within the framework of its resources and in the event of war to provide these institutions with ammunition, food, lodging, transport, medical care and all the military requisites in their connection with the Ministry of Defense and the Army, such as weaponry, ammunitions, etc.;
2. The Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran is bound by the Constitution to participate in the reconstruction campaign as far as possible and insofar as its combat readiness is not impaired;
3. In order to prevent any manner of weakening of the armed forces, the mass media should observe the security interests of the Army and, when necessary, coordinate them with the Political and Ideological Department of the Army;
4. Consideration of cases of anti-revolution charges of the personnel of the armed forces shall be the jurisdiction of the Military Revolutionary Tribunals. Other institutions have absolutely no right to interfere in this matter. The summoning and detention of such personnel shall take place solely on a warrant by the Military Revolutionary Prosecutor issued in coordination with the commander of the unit concerned;
5. Purge is a natural process but it obviously should not do away with job security. The resolution stipulates that purge and its continuation is subject to the approval of the Islamic Consultative Assembly; and,
6. The military and security forces and the revolutionary institutions have been ordered to refrain from irresponsible interference in the affairs of one another.

At the conclusion of the resolution, Ayatollah Eshraqi was requested to supervise the follow-up of the enforcement of the provisions of the resolution.

9695

CSO: 4906

# ISLAMIC CENTRAL BANKS PLAN COOPERATION

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 9 Sep 80 pp 1, 2

[Text] The third conference of the Chancellors of the Central Banks of the Islamic countries, held in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, concluded its work by issuing a resolution. The provisions of some of the articles of the said resolution shall be brought to the attention of our dear readers hereunder. These are: expansion of trade relations among the Islamic countries; making short-term and long-term economic facilities available for commercial activities; establishment of Islamic banks in conformity with the holy traditions of Islam; economic boycott of usurping Israel and supporting the Palestine Liberation Organization; and, donation of financial assistance to that Organization.

At the request of the Chancellor of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the participants in the conference expressed their explicit opposition to the freeze of Iranian assets by the United States and demanded their immediate return to Iran.

The Resolution of the Third Meeting of the Chancellors of the Central Bank of the Islamic Countries

The resolution of the third meeting of the chancellors of the central banks of the Islamic countries, held in Riyadh, 1-2 September 1980 (equivalent to 21-22 Shavval of 1400 of the Lunar Hegira Calendar) was issued as follows:

1. With a view to the press report submitted by the Secretariat of the Islamic Conference regarding the enforcement of the decisions adopted in the second session of the said Conference held in Uganda last year, the participants assigned the Secretary of the Conference to follow up the matter and take action for the implementation of the adopted points through correspondence and contact with the officials of the member countries;
2. With a view to the contributions which may be made to the Islamic solidarity via transfer of private capital, it cannot be overemphasized that facilities must be provided for capital flow by means of bank guarantee and other incentives. On this score, the chancellors of the central banks of



13. Islamic countries asked the Islamic Development Bank to extend an increasing amount of financial and technical assistance and credit facilities to the Islamic countries needing such help. Therefore, the secretariats of the Islamic Conference and of the Islamic Development Bank shall prepare a working paper on the measures to be taken for this purpose, which paper shall be submitted to the next conference of the chancellors of the central banks of the Islamic countries.

14. Two detailed reports were presented to the conference on the expansion of commercial relations among the Islamic countries. The two reports contained specific proposals on the expansion of trade cooperation and provision of short-term and long-term trade facilities. Subsequently it was decided that the secretariat of the Conference send the two reports to all the Islamic countries for their remarks and then to sum up the collected comments and suggestions with the help of experts in order to have a final set of suggestions sent for the consideration of the chancellors of the central banks of the Islamic countries in their fourth conference.

15. The chancellors of the central banks expressed their satisfaction at the seriousness evidenced by the participants in the conference in observing the holy Islamic traditions in banking and in applying Islamic principles to their business. They further expressed their pleasure at the establishment of Islamic banks in member countries. The conference emphasized the need for supporting the organization of Islamic banks. With a view to the fact that these banks must conform stringently with the Islamic banking laws and take positive steps for protecting the deposits of the people and win the confidence of the investors, it was decided to make specific and clear-cut laws which completely corresponded with the holy traditions of Islam and were applicable to the said banks. To realize this objective, adequate study must be made and a series of common laws and procedures must be devised. This important task was delegated to a special committee so that it might take steps for making and coordinating the said regulations with the cooperation and participation of the secretariat of the Islamic Conference and of the Islamic Development Bank.

16. The conference of the chancellors of the central banks of the Islamic countries agreed on the proposal of the representative of the PLO on generalizing the Arab economic ban on Israel and on stepping up Arab assistance to the PLO. Therefore, all the Islamic countries that have not yet put into effect the economic boycott of the racist and Zionist regime of Israel are expected to adopt such a policy. Also, projects should be implemented for equipping and marketing the agricultural and industrial products of Palestine in the Islamic countries. The chancellors of the central banks of the Islamic countries also decided to invite the financing and credit agencies of the Islamic countries to extend loans and financial credits to the PLO so that the said Organization may afford the high costs of the liberation struggle of the people of occupied Palestine.

6. The participants in the conference expressed their satisfaction at the decision of the chairman of the joint session of the delegations of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to invite the PLO to attend the sessions of these two agencies next year. However, they deplored and expressed their concern and resentment over the decision of the boards of directors of the said two organizations to change part of the rules and regulations governing these two organizations in order to prevent the admission of the Palestinians. The participants in the conference pointed out that the said two institutions had actually betrayed the confidence of the member countries in them by treading over their own principles and rules for serving the political ends of the superpowers. Therefore, the participants in the conference expressed their full confidence in Mr. Amir Jamal, the Finance Minister of Tanzania and Chairman of the Joint Session of the Delegations of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and endorsed his decision to invite the representatives of the PLO and at the same time called on the said two organizations to follow the existing rules and regulations as soon as possible and to listen to the chairman of the joint session and officially invite the Palestinians to participate in the meetings. With reference to the text of the proposed resolution which has now been sent by IMF and the World Bank for approval of their members--and which, once approved, would call for the modification of part of the internal regulations of the IMF as an effort to prevent the presence of the PLO--the participants in the conference suggested that all the member countries of the said two organizations--excluding the United States and South Africa--be asked not to respond to the proposed resolution at all, so that it would not gain quorum. Also those countries that have already voted for this resolution should be asked to withdraw their votes.

9695

CSO: 4906

## ARAB LOBBY SEEKS KNESSET REPRESENTATION

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Aug 80 pp 19, 21

[Article by Ya'akov Havaquq: "A Voice Crying in the Jungle: Israel's Arabs Try for First Time in Years to Organize a True "Lobby" without Ties to Extremists or the Ruling Establishment; Opponents Regard It as Another Alignment Elections Maneuver"]

[Text] The ink has not yet dried on the document which records the six agreed on principles of the "Movement of Arab Citizens in Israel"--a new organization intended as a response group and better known as the "Arab lobby"--and it has already been attacked from all sides. RAKAH (the communist party) regards the Arab-Israeli lobby as a new version of old bodies which belong to the Alignment, intended to gain power in the forthcoming elections, after all the old tradition ways have failed. Those close to the Likud see the lobby as an unnecessary body since Israel's Arabs have all the political and partisan structures for dealing with their needs. Like RAKAH, the Likud too sees the lobby as an arm of the Alignment for the elections. In the corridors of the Arab department in the Histadrut, where the idea of establishing an Arab lobby took shape, there is no meeting of minds about it: when its activists were given the green light it was believed that the lobby will be linked to the Histadrut, yet the activists for their own reasons decided to promote it independently and at their own pace, which did not please the officialdom of the Histadrut. Nayif Musalha, secretary of the Workers Council-Integrating Generation, one of the most outspoken opponents of the lobby, sees it as a grave mistake and an act of self-justification on the part of the Arabs.

The Arab lobby, from its vantage point, follows closely the reactions to its initiative. The lobby activists know well the criticisms and the arguments which they consider a natural partisan reaction. "We are not worried about the criticism," one of the main activists says. "In the end, we believe, logic will prevail and the interests of Israel's Arabs will overcome the narrow political considerations of the various parties."

The birth of the Arab lobby, which is still in its infancy, as well as its goals and methods of operation are a subject of vocal controversy among Arab leaders.

Attorney Jamil Shalhuv, former member of Haifa's city council for the Alignment, considered the originator of the idea of an Arab Lobby, relates how the idea was born during the memorial service for Yigal Allon in Genesee. "I met Ibrahim Shvat of Nazareth and Muhammad Masarwa of Kara, and we discussed starting an Arab lobby like the Jewish lobby in the U.S. Muhammad Unis of the Histadrut who happened to hear us, raised the issue at the Arab department of the Histadrut, and when we got the green light, we started to work on it. We met in my office, we decided what the goals of the lobby will be, we set its principles, and we started a correspondence with various leaders in the Arab community, inviting them to join us."

Different political circles in the Arab community reject Shalhuv's claim that the initiative came from Arabs. Some say that Mr Binyamin Gur Aryeh, acting advisor for Arab affairs in the prime minister's office, decided to establish a moderate representative Arab body, which will speak for the silent majority of Israel's Arabs in light of the growing strength of RAKAH in the Arab community and its initiative in convening a "Congress of the Arab Masses and the Democratic Israeli Circles." RAKAH's show of strength, according to this view, caused the red light to go on in the advisor's office, which is why Gur Aryeh turned to the Arab department of the Histadrut (since Likud does not have influence among the Arabs), and asked for a response group to be organized and promised to finance it. Gur Aryeh categorically denied all this: "If I had wanted to form such a group I could have done without the help from the Histadrut. The initiative came from them, not from me. I don't tell the Arabs what to do, I am an advisor to the prime minister. All these arguments are unfounded."

Also Member of Knesset Nasr al-Din of the Herut party denies this view: "Anyone who says that the Likud has no influence among Arabs does not know what he is talking about. In a short time I plan to organize a convention of 200 Arab activists who support the Likud, which will be a conclusive answer to all the detractors."

Attorney Shalhuv, who was asked about the new initiative and its ties to the office of the prime minister's advisor for Arab affairs, said: "The initiative and the organizing was ours. We did not consult the advisor's office. We consulted the members, the Histadrut, the Arab section of the party we belong to (Labor and MAPAM)."

[Question] "Why was it necessary to establish an Arab lobby in Israel?"

[Answer] "There were several developments, especially the growing extremist tone on both Jewish and Arab sides, which were cause for concern for any Israeli citizen who cares," says Attorney Shalhuv. "Several demagogues on both sides have raised their voices, then raised their hands--which created a serious threat for Jewish-Arab coexistence. The Nazareth conference and its extremist proclamations; the friction in the universities in Jerusalem and Haifa among extremist students of both camps; the feeling of frustration and discrimination of Israel's Arabs; the reports of what was going on in the Arab community as was reported in the Israeli media--all of this created the impression of ferment and violence, an imminent blowup. The Jewish public

got the impression that the Arab citizen was not loyal to the state--which is untrue. I believe that Arab citizens have demonstrated their loyalty to the state, and if there were cases of betrayal, those were extreme, and there are some among Jews as well. We maintain that the silent majority of Israel's Arabs should be heard from, and, believe me, the overwhelming majority of the Arabs are loyal to the state of Israel and sees itself as an integral part of it."

[Question] "Who are the active leaders in the Arab lobby?"

[Answer] "At the moment the activists are Attorney Muhammad Masarwa of the village of Kara; Mahud Yunis of Arara; Ibrahim Shvat of Nazareth; Kaasim Ziyad of Um al Fahm, and I. We maintain contact with 60-70 leaders who will participate in the activities of the lobby."

[Question] "Are you in touch with Jewish leaders?"

[Answer] "Yes, the lobby is looking for ways to cooperate with Jews who wish to further coexistence and fraternity between the two nations. We intend to bring in Jewish representatives who are known for their moderate views like Yosi Sarid and Abba Eban of the Alignment and David Glass of MAFDAL."

[Question] "What are your principles?"

[Answer] "The principles of the Arab lobby focus now on six sections agreed by all members, which are: a) The Arab lobby is not a party or a list for the elections. Each member is free to run in any party or list of his choice. b) We wish to ally ourselves with the labor movement, with all it entails. We strive for the advancement of the Arab citizens and hope a dialogue with the labor movement will make it possible. c) The lobby will react to everything which happens in the state, especially in the area of Jewish-Arab relations and the problems of the Arab community. d) We will hold seminars, do research, discuss matters, and strive to persuade. We will not support demonstrations, strikes, or acts of violence. e) We will react against polarization on both sides; we will work toward normal relations, and toward fraternity and understanding between Jews and Arabs. f) Above all, we will contribute our share and struggle for a just peace based on mutual recognition between the two nations in Israel."

[Question] "What will be your method of operation?"

[Answer] "We will turn to the public in every way possible--through the media; we will hold seminars, inviting speakers from both camps to discuss and try to persuade. We will present not only the problems--which I believe are clear and well known--but will try to involve different bodies who will look for solutions to those problems. We will try to influence parties to change their platforms in regard to Israel's Arabs; we will work on educating the youth, in school and at home, in teaching civics, in promoting national pride for each nation, in uprooting hate, racism, and discrimination."



[Question] "Will you have a publication?"

[Answer] "We are not sure yet." "We may publish a weekly or a monthly, we haven't decided yet."

#### The Future Will Be Rosy

[Question] "People say that you are typical party hacks, that some of you ran for the Knesset and lost, and that all this lobby activity is meant to secure for yourselves a good place in the lists for the next Knesset."

[Answer] "We are indeed party members (Masarwa, Abasi and Shalhuv--members of Labor; Zayid, Yunis and Shvat--MAPAM members--Y.H.). True, some of us were on the Alignment list in past elections. But all this talk about the lobby being a jumping board for a seat in the Knesset is unfounded. I didn't tell anyone I want to be a member of Knesset. I am a party man, and if the party sees me as a candidate I will consider it and may even answer in the affirmative."

[Question] "Mr Shalhuv, if you want to solve the problems of the Arab citizens in Israel, why don't you establish a list for the Knesset and try to fight from within? Why insist on the nonpolitical nature of the lobby?"

[Answer] "I'll tell you why," Shalhuv says rocking in his easy chair. "If we go to the polls as an independent list we will get one, two, three mandates. No more. Another short-lived party. We strive for a non-politican lobby supported by many members of Knesset of all parties, something like the "Golan Heights Lobby" supported by more than 75 members of Knesset. Such a lobby is much more effective than a small faction in the Knesset."

[Question] "How will you finance your activities?"

[Answer] "Until now we have paid for everything ourselves. Truthfully, we did not have too many expenses. We met here, in my office, we sat and thought of our future moves. When we hold a convention the participants will contribute, according to their means. When the time comes we will hold a fundraising campaign, set up a budget committee and will have an ad hoc budget. We do not want the lobby to charge dues."

[Question] "The Arab lobby is meant to be a vehicle for the moderate Arabs. It is no secret you will have strong adversaries, like RAKAH, the Front, the Sons of the Village. How will you deal with them?"

[Answer] "No doubt RAKAH, the Front and the Sons of the Village consider us rivals. We know they will not welcome us. They will call us names and will try to thwart us. But we are sure that most of Israel's Arabs do not identify with those extremists. We can stop the deterioration of relations caused by the Sons of the Village and RAKAH."

[Question] "Still, RAKAH has a well oiled propaganda machine and a large budget. What will you have to offer?"

[Answer] "RAKAH's machine is good for RAKAH's purposes, but I believe that despite their machine and their money, they will not achieve their goals. Most of the voters do not support them. The majority supports the moderate positions, coexistence, fraternity, understanding." Shalhuf pauses, looking for the right words. "They bring up important issues, some of which are the same as the ones we bring up, but our solutions differ. They work through incitement and attack, we look for persuasion and dialogue."

Our short-statured interviewee sounds optimistic. As the conversation goes on he waxes more optimistic. He explains that the things he is talking about cannot happen overnight, but he believes that moderation and good sense will overcome extremism and violence. He envisions the two nations living together in harmony. "We have lived together for fifty years of wars and clashes in which tens of thousands of members of both nations lost their lives. War is not a solution; it will only aggravate the problem. Time has come to divert all the resources from war to construction and development, so that the land may finally yield milk and honey," he says in a whisper.

[Question] "What is your optimism due to?"

[Answer] "If anyone would have said three years ago that Sadat would come to Jerusalem or sign a peace treaty with Israel--he would have been considered crazy. I believe, that the future will be rosier. Jews and Arabs have things in common. We are of the same origin. We are both monotheistic. Once, the greatest Jewish philosophers, like Maimonides, wrote in Arabic. When you look for a basis for coexistence, you have to look to the past, to the time when Jews and Arabs lived together. We may disagree, but we must not let the disagreements create an abysmal gap of hate or violence." (After a moment of silence he continues) "I know that our road is not a bed of roses. We will have thorns and stumbling blocks, perhaps even a few fiascos. But we will pick ourselves up and go on, and hopefully achieve our goals. We have to do everything within our power so that what happened to us does not happen to our children. We have to insure a peaceful life, full of hope and happiness."

#### A Hidden Agenda

Shalhuf's optimism does not impress the opponents of the Arab lobby, who are strongly opposed to it. Member of Knesset Tufik Ziad of RAKAH, who is also mayor of Nazareth, sees the Arab lobby as an evasion of the problems which the Arabs suffer from. He considers the lobby the same dame with different makeup [as published]. "The lobbyists who are active in the new organization are the same people who have been through all the political motions in the past 30 years," he observes. "As for me, I see the lobby as a controlled, anti-communist body the purpose of which (as well as of the people behind it) is to work against the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality. They do not hide their purpose, which is nothing new. I believe the lobby is part of Labor and MAPAM, and all I can wish it is that it will not last long. Any new body which does not demand real and fundamental

change in the official Israeli policy toward the downtrodden and oppressed Palestinian people, in, in my opinion, short-lived," Tufik Ziad concludes.

A member of the Sons of the Village movement, whom we asked about the Arab lobby, said: "The activists who stand behind the lobby are traitors to the Arab-Palestinian cause. If they think that a fawning Arab lobby will solve our problems, they are wrong. They do not represent us, at most they represent themselves. Such a group will not make inroads in the Arab community, since the majority does not follow their principles. In reality, these people did not establish the lobby themselves, and they do not understand that they are being used as a fig leaf. We will wait and see what will happen to them after the festival of the media around them stops."

The question was asked: "Will your movement, the Sons of the Village, try to hamper them?"

To which he responded: "No comments. Time will tell."

Not only the radical camp in the form of RAKAH and the Sons of the Village opposes the Arab lobby. Also, the Arabists of the Zionist movements maintain that the Arab lobby is superfluous. Member of Knesset Nasr al-Din of Herut says: "The lobby in my opinion is a serious mistake. The Arabs should be integrated in the life of the state without ethnic or religious organizing. There is no need for organizing an Arab-Druse list, for example. We are all Israeli citizens. The whole lobby idea is political, backed by the Labor party, and the lobby activists are men with political ambitions." Member of Knesset Nasr al-Din does not think that the lobby threatens the Arab members of Knesset. "The lobby cannot hurt us. The members of Knesset are integrated in the Zionist movements because we were not elected by the Arab voters but by our parties." According to Nasr al-Din, the Arab lobby will eventually join the Labor party simply because it has no independent existence.

Nayif Masalha of Labor is strongly opposed to the move of his fellow Laborites. The idea of a lobby riles him because it presents a consensus on issues relative to official policy toward Israel's Arabs, which the Laborites cannot support. He thinks that the lobby activists present a self-justifying position, which he does not understand. "Whoever has something to say can say it through the existing political structure. There is no need for a new party to pre-party in the form of an Arab lobby." Masalha too does not consider the lobby long-lived, and he looks at it, in his words, realistically: "These activists do not hide their intention to be in the Knesset. They are members of Labor of MAPAM who look for a base when the time comes. This is legitimate, in itself, but I believe that they have to choose a framework, and they have already been pressured to do so. To me they are generals without a people, commanders without an army. They try to involve public figures and common folk, they are being pushed by heads of Arab departments and other bodies to serve as an alternative to people who are in office now. If you check the background of the lobby's activists you will see that there is food for thought. One of them, for example, was on the Alignment list in 69 and 73, but when he found out that he was not included in the 77 list he formed his own list with the Independent Liberal Party and the Citizens' Rights Movement (Mahmud Abasi--Y.H.). Listen, my



friend, these people have learned a good lesson in democracy from the Jews, and they know how to apply it." Sayit Masalha's conclusion is clear: "How can they get parties to change their platforms? How can they gain influence from the outside? Anyone who wants change can only do it from inside! These people try to walk among the raindrops without getting wet. They have personal weight, each one individually; they have good intentions, but their aim is transparent!"

The heads of the lobby, who follow the statements against them, are aware of questions which have not yet been answered. They recognize the fact that the massive attack against them has not yet started, and that there are difficult times ahead, a time of struggle with the most radical elements among Israel's Arabs. One of the lobby's supporters, who asked to remain anonymous, told us openly: "I think I made a mistake disclosing the idea to the media at such an early stage. The ground work should have been done quietly, secretly. We should have dealt with the more difficult questions and then gone public."

Jamil Shalhuf thinks that circumstances mandated the formation of the lobby at this time. He maintains that the Arab lobby is positive and vital, that its non-political and supra-political character will attract different people, Jews and Arabs, of different parties, with a common desire to work for the cause of Israel's Arabs. Shalhuf, looking to enumerate the serious problems of the Arab citizens, mentions the following: expropriation of lands, employment of graduates, education, jobs, social security law, citizenship law, absentees' property law, outline plans in villages and local councils, industrialization, image vis-a-vis the establishment, and more. He emphasizes that he is not concerned about the fate of the lobby, even in the face of radical political elements who wish to make political gains at the expense of hundreds of thousands frustrated Arab citizens.

At the end of the conversation, as I put down my pen, he starts a personal monologue: "I started my career in Israel, with Israel. I have a share in this state like anyone else. I consider the state a tree which I have helped to plant. I don't want anyone with fiendish intentions to harm this tree or let alone cut it down. The Bible says, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' It does not say your Jewish neighbor or your Arab neighbor. This is my motto, love your neighbor as yourself, and anyone who does not threaten me, who wants to live with me in friendship and understanding and respect, is my good neighbor. I would like my Arab brothers in the state to feel as equals, have a feeling of constructive partnership and responsibility. The state of Israel today is built by Arabs, but, unfortunately, they do not feel they are building the state, they do not feel they are partners, part of the state. I would like to make a contribution to change the concept in both camps, in both nations who live side by side in one state. When I tell you such things each word is given different interpretations and I am accused of seeking power. In our present situation it is easy to be an extremist, to attack and defame. I know that if I defame I will attract the reporters. But if I work for understanding, friendship and safeguarding the rights of the Arab citizens, no one is impressed. Sensation seekers will only play up extremism, thus encouraging extremists and creating the impression that everyone is an extremist, which is untrue. Some day we will find out which is the right way, extremism, contempt, and violence, or moderation, mutual understanding, and coexistence."

## AGRICULTURAL EXPORT FALLING

Yot Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Aug 80 p 10

[first] After several years of continuous growth, the agricultural export came to a halt and is now finding itself in a disquieting process of decline. During the export season of 1975-76 there still was an impressive growth of 45 percent; the year after the growth was only 29 percent. Another year passed and another drop to 22 percent, until we reached 1979-80 which just ended with a nominal growth of 6 to 7 percent only, which in real terms is even considered a decline. All this, in spite of the demand for our agricultural products and the good prices it obtains on markets.

In the summer meeting of the representatives of "Agresco" and the managers of its branches abroad, Reuben Hlad, director general of the company, described this serious phenomenon, analyzed its reasons and determined that future plans must not be built on the "declining line" but rather on a new offensive. "If we withdraw from the market," he said, "our place will be filled by the competition;" a delegation of buyers from Europe who visited Israel towards the new export season also warned against such withdrawals. Moreover, the Israeli reality from the point of view of the considerable gap in the balance of payments of the country and the presence of many agricultural settlements in three regions of the country, whose main income stems from agricultural exports, reinforce the necessity to increase exports.

Where, then, is the delay coming from? Is it only the material hazards which we cannot control? The terrible blow which befell the avocado branch this year, in which according to the forecast 80 percent of the expected produce was lost, will in itself decrease the farmers' income in the coming export season by approximately \$40 million. We still do not know whether or not the coming winter and spring will bring in hail, storms, heatwaves and, God forbid, cold and frosty days. The damages that these bring about cannot be avoided completely; it is only possible to minimize the possible effects.

thus, says the director general of Agresco, only the strokes [an translated] of policy or the lack of right policy, will eventually determine the future of the export in general and of agricultural exports in particular.

#### Loss of Two and a Half Billion Lira

The big gap in the exchange rate of the export dollar since the economic upheaval of the Likud government, which is more detrimental to the agricultural export, represents, according to the director general of Agresco, one of the central factors in the decline of the agricultural export. To this, one has to add the scarcity of credit and the difficult conditions of the index-linked developmental loans in an annual inflation rate of 120 percent.

In the last export season alone, the exchange rate fell behind as against the level of inflation and the increase in the agricultural input by approximately 15 IL to the dollar, which means that the farmers lost 52 billion. In this situation, many farmers fear investments in the development and expansion of export growth. Moreover, due to lack of credit and cash, the farmers frequently prefer sending their produce from existing harvests to the local market, since they believe that this will pay a higher price.

Hand said that the grape growers in the Jordan Valley lost considerable amounts of money this summer because a great part of the grapes was directed to the local market, which paid a higher price at the beginning, but afterwards it became clear that the export fruit paid more. There is no certainty that this situation will not repeat itself in the marketing of mangos.

#### What Is Expected This Year?

What then can be expected during the coming export season, supposing that there will not be any considerable changes in the exchange rate policy?

In the fruit branch the sharp decline in earnings is already obvious because of the natural disasters which befell the avocado. In the flower branch it would have been possible to increase exports by 10-15 percent, but this was not done because of the government's lack of encouragement in investments. When a dunam carnations necessitates an investment of 600,000 IL and a dunam roses 1.5 million IL, and the loans are 100 percent index linked in a situation of an annual inflation rate of 120 percent, there is not much readiness to invest. In the vegetable branch Agresco took special steps to provide governmental help to vegetable growers (even if not a sufficient one), to encourage land expansion and export growth by a new method, and by securing the

farmers from risks. As it became clear from the signing of the agreements, this action was successful. Special care was taken, however, to insure the obligation of the growers to provide the export product and not to be tempted by the local market, even if it would promise better prices and immediate payments.

Thus, it seems, that in the export of vegetables, we shall witness a renewed offensive, if there are no unexpected natural disasters that cannot be controlled. Agresco will also try to increase the general export quota, especially of animals and dairy products, such as cows, sheep, poultry and turkey meat, honey, cheeses and butter, eggs, etc. Additional growth is expected in other products such as goose liver, meat, lard and feathers, since in this branch surprising progress has been achieved.

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CSO: 4805

## JULY EXPORT DECLINES BY 23 PERCENT

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Aug 80 p 10

[Text] This July, the net export of goods totaled \$408 million (calculated in dollars, current prices); of it \$12 million was agricultural export and \$396 million industrial export. Last July, the net export totaled \$376 million. The export value exclusive of diamonds, ships, aircraft and exclusive of seasonal influences shows a decline of 23 percent this July as against June, after an increase of 23 percent in June as against May of this year. This was reported by the speakers of the Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism on the basis of temporary data which does not include the export from Israel to the administrated territories.

## January-July 1980

The net export of goods during 7 months of this year reached \$3,118 million as compared to \$2,459 million during the same period of time last year--an increase of 27 percent. The industrial export (exclusive of diamonds) increased by 35 percent, the export of diamonds by 21 percent and the agricultural export by 12 percent.

The industrial export (exclusive of diamonds) from January to July 1980 totaled \$1,819 million as opposed to \$1,350 million during the same period of time last year. This increase of 35 percent reflects an increase in exports in numerous industrial branches, such as: mining, minerals, non-metallics by 62 percent; textiles, wearing apparel and leather by 58 percent; chemicals, rubber and plastics by 53 percent; food, drinks and tobacco by 22 percent, wood, paper and printing by 20 percent; exports of metals, machinery and electronics which constitute approximately a third of the total industrial export (exclusive of diamonds) increased from January to July of this year by 19 percent.

Seasonally adjusted data shows that the industrial export (exclusive of diamonds) is in the last month at the level of an average of \$260 to \$270 million as against \$230 to \$240 million per month in the second half of 1979.

The export of polished diamonds (net) in the first 7 months of this year amounted to \$861 million as opposed to \$790 million during the same period of time last year. This increase of 21 percent contributed 23 percent to the growth in the value of all exports.

The agricultural export (including citrus) in the 7 months of this year amounted to \$431 million as opposed to \$386 million during the same period of time last year--an increase of 12 percent. The export of citrus totaled \$208 million and was 6 percent higher than during the same period of time last year.

Another agricultural export rose from \$188 million between January and July of last year to \$222 million during the same months of this year--which amounts to an increase of 18 percent.

9467

CSO: 4805

## BRIEFS

GOLAN HEIGHTS POLL.--A public opinion poll conducted by Dr Minah Tsemah from the "Dahaf" Institution for the committee of the Golan Heights settlements, shows that 74.5 percent of the public supports, without any reservations, the implementation of the Israeli law in the Golan Heights; 11.1 percent opposes the implementation of the law and 12.7 percent has no opinion on the subject. In a poll conducted in the beginning of May, citizens were asked whether they were for or against the implementation of the Israeli law in the Golan Heights, now that a group of Knesset members are in the process of recommending the annexation of the Golan. The results of the poll show that the supporters of the implementation of the law come from all social classes, and there is no unusual division. The findings of the poll show that if the elections were held today, 81.3 percent of those voting for the Likud Party would presently vote for the law in the Golan, whereas 8.3 percent would be against the implementation of the law. Among those voting for the Labor Party, 74.5 percent supported the implementation of the Israeli law in the Golan, whereas 12.2 percent oppose it, and among those voting NRP, 83.3 percent supported the implementation of the law while 1.7 percent oppose it. Among those who are still undecided, 78 percent said that they support the implementation of the law in the Golan, while 7.2 percent oppose it. [Text] [Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Aug 80 p 3] 9467

EXPORT PROFITS--Export profits increased by 3 percent in the first 7 months of this year. This was determined by a computation conducted by the Bank of Israel. This increase came after a rise of 4.2 percent in export profits in 1979. The calculations of the Bank of Israel are based on the real devaluation of the Israeli lira as opposed to the basket of currencies. They do not take into consideration the benefits of export by credit. The data of the Bank of Israel indicates a sharp increase in Israeli export in spite of a slowdown in the growth of import in the developed countries. According to the estimate of the Bank of Israel the export will increase (this year) by 13 percent (the nominal growth was valued at 30 percent). The Bank of Israel points to the fact that the Israeli export increased by 109 percent from 1976 to 1980, whereas



the rate of growth of imports in the developed countries was less than 38 percent over the same period of time. These findings relate to industrial exports exclusive of diamonds. According to the Bank of Israel, the growth in export expresses its profitability. Due to profitability, the export grew continuously. [Text] [Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Aug 80 p 11] 9467

VIEWS OF YOUTH--The Israeli youth tends to be more hawkish than the adults. In an election poll conducted the day before yesterday, 15,000 youths participated and according to their preferences, "Thiya" has a good chance of winning more votes than the NRP. If the elections were held today, the Labor Party would win, according to their choice, by 50.6 percent, Likud by 26.8 percent, "Thiya" by 13.2 percent, NRP by 4.4 percent, Sheli by 2 percent and others by 3 percent. The question who would be most suitable to be prime minister was answered by the youths in the following way: Rabin, 42.5 percent; Begin, 21.5 percent; Peres, 18.5 percent; Weizman, 7.5 percent; Geulah Cohen, 4.5 percent; Sharon, 2.5 percent; others, 3 percent. The question of the youth's political involvement was answered by 65 percent of those asked. Some 55 percent of them are for a political involvement within the framework of political youth organizations. The poll was conducted by the coordinators of "Youth City." [Text] [Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 6 Aug 80 p 3] 9467

CSO: 4805



# DELAYS OF ARAB FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DISCUSSED

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 7 Sep 80 p 6

[Article by 'Team al-Jaradi: "Delays in Making Arab Aid Payments Disrupt Construction Projects, Raise Questions About Existence of Political Reasons"]

[Text] The subject of Arab countries making their payments of Arab aid to Lebanon is monopolizing the interest of officials. This aid, which amounts to 1 billion dollars, was approved at the Tunisia Summit meeting. It is monopolizing the interest of officials, especially after the country's Development and Reconstruction Council prepared a program to implement construction and development projects in South Lebanon and in the remaining Lebanese areas in the context of what it was agreed would be called the 12-month program.

The Development and Reconstruction Council ties implementation of the projects that are mentioned in the aforementioned program with receipt of the first part of the aid that is to be paid during the present year. [This aid amounts to] 400 million dollars, and this is based on the fact that the total cost of implementing the program is 1 billion Lebanese pounds.

On the strength of official information, Lebanon has received only 153 million dollars of the Arab aid that The Tunisia Summit meeting committed to it. This is less than half the payment that is due in 1980 which is about to come to an end.

It has been learned that this matter was discussed at the meeting that took place two days ago between President Elias Sarkis and the president of the Development and Reconstruction Council Dr Muhammad 'Atallah. It was discussed from the angle of the effects of the delay in receiving the Arab aid according to the program that had been determined for that aid at the Tunisia Summit. It was determined that the sum of 400 million dollars would be paid over a 5-year period for the 12-month construction plan and for the general construction program that the state adopted. This program had constituted an official Lebanese item at the Tunisia and

Baghdad conference in the course of investigating Arab commitments to help Lebanon financially.

#### Arab kings and heads of state

Official sources are asking about the reasons that have so far prevented the Arab countries from making the payments that their kings and heads of state had pledged to help Lebanon financially. These sources are wondering whether some of the countries had reverted to the old tune which they had used and still being as an excuse to justify their lack of aid to rebuild Lebanon in past years. That excuse involved domestic security and political reasons.

These circles are saying that Lebanon's [representatives] were candid when they met with the Arab kings and heads of state and proposed the subject of construction and that of alleviating the existing economic and social problems. They rejected [the notion] that Arab aid--in case intentions to offer such aid are actually serious--be subject to political conditions and external developments. "Economic and social problems have become part of the Lebanese crisis, and it is now doubtful that this aid will fulfill its full objectives if it comes late due to the fact that the dollar drain is continuing and the economic situation has been frozen, especially in South Lebanon, that is, half the aid that was determined for Lebanon."

Lebanon is putting much stock on the Arab countries meeting their financial obligations towards the reconstruction and development of Lebanon. This is not only because Lebanon actually needs this aid, but also because the aid interprets practical Arab intentions towards Lebanon, the more so as the political field and the political scene are enveloped in much confusion and mystery which prevent the positive establishment of the accuracy and sometimes the truthfulness of the political support that is being given through this aid.

#### What says the Syrian side

The same circles believe that the Arab procrastination in meeting the financial obligations that had been determined at the Tunisia Summit not only indicates a turning away from these pledges, but it also hides specific positions towards Lebanon that may be more political than they are financial or economic. They stem from expectations which this or the other Arab country may have about certain developments taking place on the Lebanese scene. In this too there is a source of concern for Lebanon, even though what is basically required from the aid is an increase, albeit limited, in the factors of stability and social security despite the existing circumstances.

What increases the sharpness of the questions that are being raised around this subject is the fact that even a relative reconstruction in Lebanon, in the context of the given circumstances, and restoring partial activity in some of the facilities whose operations or activities was expected by Arab aid in particular would not constitute any competition or any harm to any one of the Arab countries so as to prevent us from saying that the reconstruction of Lebanon, the stimulation of its trade and its trade and its facilities, the return of its tourist and hotel establishments to doing business, in addition to the improvement of its transportation and the retraining of its manpower do not constitute an Arab demand almost in and of itself.

Nevertheless, a decision that was made by Arab kings and heads of state and in their presence is still awaiting implementation in the desired manner.

In the view of observers, however, the developments in security and political conditions in South Lebanon are of special importance when compared with the Arab position on meeting Arab financial obligations towards Lebanon.

As we stated, 1 billion pounds of the total aid that was determined at the Tunisia Summit was designated specifically to South Lebanon due to the exceptional circumstances which that area is experiencing in confronting the Zionist enemy. There was an Arab determination to single out South Lebanon because it was a basic point in the conference's agenda. However, turning the Arab view of the special facts in South Lebanon into a decision to help the South was not completed by making the payments.

There is no doubt that the continued deterioration of conditions and the worsening living, economic and social conditions in South Lebanon constitute an incentive for implementing the aforementioned Arab decision. The security condition excuse here is the weapon to be used in the face of those who are procrastinating in making their payments and not the aforementioned circumstances and conditions whose particulars have not changed since the Tunisia Summit, except for the fact that they have deteriorated further.

The 12-month construction plan, which will be implemented with the first installment of Arab aid, includes building orphanages, improving the conditions of roads and building hospitals in South Lebanon.

What is astonishing is the fact that the Arab countries which have so far contributed the least to the aid payments they were supposed to make in 1980 are the oil countries in the Arabian Gulf. These are the countries that are "urging an Arab holy war these days."

It is the opinion of some that Lebanon embarrassed the Arabs in the oil countries five years ago when it presented a working paper to the kings

and to ask the other countries to provide a summary of the projects that were to be implemented in 1980 in Lebanon. The paper included the financial obligations that were required and those that were available. Lebanon can embarrass the Arab oil countries again if it tells them, "Lebanon, and South Lebanon alone, after you are excited at the Tunisia Summit, is waiting for your 1980 aid payment to implement the projects for the orphanages for children in al-Shaffah and the roads and to shore up the resistance of the Lebanese residents on their land."

All this will do is not relieve Lebanon of the responsibility of expediting the payment of this aid according to the program that was outlined for this aid since it did ask for the aid at the Tunisia Summit. It could be that, if doing so, "we can catch the aid at the door of the house."

Installments Due by the End of August

The sum of 100,000,000 dollars which Lebanon did receive by the end of August was distributed. This sum is part of the 400 million dollars Lebanon was to have received in 1980. Saudi Arabia paid one installment; Kuwait paid one; the United Arab Emirates paid two; and Iraq paid three.

Bye.

CSG: 4807

## PLANS TO DEVELOP AL-BIQA' REGION REVIEWED

Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 7 Sep 80 pp 13-14

[Interview with the Minister of Agriculture Joseph Skaff, by Lur Ma'luf and 'Id al-Ashqar: "Minister Skaff Says, 'Al-Biqa' Constitutes Basic Foundation for Agricultural Economy; New Plan Made for Development and Mechanization"]

[Text] Minister of Agriculture Joseph Skaff said that al-Biqa' is considered the basic foundation of the agricultural economy, and that it represent the more abundant income in the agricultural field. He announced that the disturbances have left their mark on the agricultural sector and have created huge losses in it. He said the Ministry of Agriculture has prepared plans for development and mechanization.

The interview with Minister Skaff follows:

[Question] Is it possible to determine the position of agriculture in al-Biqa'?

[Answer] Al-Biqa' is considered the basic foundation for both branches of the agricultural economy: plants and animals. It represents the more abundant income in the agricultural field because it is in al-Biqa' that the production of field crops, grain, vegetables, sweet potatoes, sugar beets and fruitful trees, especially apples and grapes, is centered. In addition, there is a poultry industry that attracted huge capitals before the events and there are agricultural industries such as the production of alcohol and the processing of agricultural products produced in al-Biqa' Valley.

[Question] What are the difficulties that you are facing in agricultural activities [with regard to] labor and agricultural mechanization?

[Answer] The current situation which al-Biqa' is experiencing is summarized in the following:

--The scarcity, instability and high cost of labor.

--The high cost of production--rent for the land and the cost of materials, such as fertilizers and drugs for diseased plants--because agricultural mechanization is not developed and the greater portion of small farmers practice their profession manually.

--The security situation in some areas.

--The interference of natural factors (drought and frost) and their effect on production.

--Unsatisfactory maintenance of machines and use of appropriate equipment.

--The absence of specialized labor and the farmers' need for loans and training so they can obtain funding to acquire the agricultural machines which are often utilized without careful selection or evaluation.

--Not using modern automatic means in mechanizing basic crops such as sweet potatoes, sugar beets and others.

On this premise this ministry made a plan whose objective is:

A. To develop the agricultural effort, to encourage mechanization and to introduce modern methods in the utilization of agricultural land and farms for the purpose of attaining a lower cost of production.

B. To raise the farmers' level of skill. This would attract a large group of rural residents to work in the agricultural sector.

C. To guarantee loans to small farmers to enable them to acquire agricultural machines and equipment after giving them sound training at model centers that would be established for that purpose.

It is self-evident that this training will lead to the improved use of these machines and the sound operation of the tractors and their equipment. This would increase the worker's production six to ten times.

We have taken practical and energetic steps in this regard. The Agricultural Mechanization Committee, which was stipulated in the legislation that pertains to organizing agricultural mechanization, has been formed. The committee is chaired by one of the senior specialists, Dr Salim Maqsud, and its members are a group of specialists representing the public and the private sectors.

We have also placed about 3 million Lebanese pounds at the disposal of this committee so it can pursue its work. There are 2.5 million pounds from the proceeds of selling Italian rice and half a million from the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture.

To take precautions for the future and to establish a select group of specialists in that field a delegation of 10 technicians has been sent to Italy to receive training in the city of Turin for six months in the principles of agricultural mechanization. This is being done with the cooperation of the Italian government which has secured all their expenses for them.

[Question] Did the events have positive or negative effects for agriculture? What are your comments on this?

[Answer] The past events had negative effects on the entire agricultural sector. We had an 80 percent loss in dairy cows; a 90 percent loss in laying chickens; a 90 percent loss in young chickens; a 40 percent loss in sheep and goats, etc.

This is in addition to the losses that were suffered by agricultural production. Production of agricultural crops declined because of damages to irrigation motors and their furnishings. This is in addition to the security situation that was prevalent during the events, and this led a large portion of farmers to reject the pursuit of agricultural work.

#### Future Projects

[Question] What are the most important projects that you intend to undertake to improve and develop this sector which is one of the most important economic resources?

[Answer] I was dismayed when I assumed my duties in the Ministry of Agriculture by the marks that were left by events on the ministry's equipment and projects. I made an effort to standardize and to collect this equipment. Then I thought about the agricultural future of this country and about ensuring a minimum measure of food security. I made an agreement with Dr Edward Suma, the director general of the Food and Agriculture Organization, to draw up an agricultural plan for the next 20 years with the cooperation of the Development and Reconstruction Council and the UN program for development.

This work has been completed. We are in the process of putting the last touches on the final report.

Among the projects that we have implemented we mention [the following]:

--Forming the economic committee which worked to protect agricultural production, taking into consideration the interests of the consumer and the regulation of imports and exports.

--Submitting a study of the wheat and sugar beet policy that takes into consideration the cost of production and maintaining [a level of] production that would ensure minimum food security by making an effort to improve the conditions of the producing farmer.



--reorganizing the Ministry of Agriculture and its public institutions in a manner that would ensure that technicians are transferred; that an effort is made in the village or in the agricultural region; that effective coordination between them is established; that a supreme advisory agricultural council that would give its opinion on agricultural plans is established; and that agricultural guidance is strengthened.

--Retraining and activating the technical staff by means of training them. We have designated 50 scholarships for this purpose in addition to preparing a project whose purpose is to prepare a senior staff for agricultural specialization. This project includes 12 grants and is still under study by the Development and Reconstruction Council.

--Taking measures that would provide 23 million dollars in loans to ensure a field fund to harvest apples; to import thoroughbred cows and goats; to pave agricultural roads; and to provide loans for the Cooperative Credit Association.

This will probably be completed at the latest by the end of December 1980 through the UN Fund for Agricultural Development where our request has already been favorably received by fund director Mr 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Sadiri.

--Establishing a center for applied research and guidance for greenhouse cultivation.

--Completing the project of surveying the animal sector (sheep, goats and others).

--Producing vaccines and strengthening veterinary health agencies.

--Raising every farmer's profit from the business of the Green Project from 10,000 to 20,000 Lebanese pounds.

--Producing 2,000 tons of pure wheat seeds for 1980 in the context of a project that would last four years.

--Producing and rooting citrus plants that are free from viral diseases.

--Establishing the firm foundations for organizing meat import operations.

We must say a word of thanks here to Dr Edward Suma for what he has offered directly or through his representative in the form of valuable assistance in preparing and implementing these projects.

[Question] What is your view of the future of the agricultural sector in al-Biqqa'?



[Answer] Al-Biqa' will remain the principal support for both parts of our agricultural production: plants and animals. It will be the safety valve for providing the Lebanese people with a living because the factors of production are available in al-Biqa' and cannot be available in a better fashion in other areas. This availability, however, is tied to the implementation of a firm agricultural policy that takes into consideration the questions of development and the evolution of consumption and exports. [Such a policy also takes into consideration] encouraging modern methods of irrigation, establishing new sources of irrigation, increasing productivity in the agricultural sector and improving the work of official administrations and institutions so that they would work alongside the farmer in his field and be close to him to solve the problems that come his way. [Such a policy also] organizes relations between the School of Agriculture at the American University and the agencies for scientific agricultural research.

This policy must improve the use of the agricultural cycle for the purpose of improving soil fertility, increasing production and mechanizing all agricultural operations.

Comparative Table

	Before Dis- turbances 1973	What Is Left	The Loss	Value of Loss (Lebanese Pounds)
The Available				
Dairy cows	25,000 cows	5,000	80 percent	60 million
Native cows	60,000 cows	30,000	50 percent	30 million
Laying chickens	3 million	300,000	90 percent	200 million
Young chickens	20 million	2 million	90 percent	100 million
Sheep and goats	500,000	300,000	40 percent	50 million
Hogs	15,000	5,000	65 percent	6 million
Horses	3,000	2,000	33 percent	12 million

8/92

CSO: 4802

## NATION PRESSING AHEAD WITH EXPLOITATION OF MINERAL RESERVES

London 8 DAYS in English 27 Sep 80 pp 42-43

[Text]

*Peace with the Polisario guerrillas has enabled Mauritania to press ahead with the exploitation of its substantial mineral reserves. The country has high hopes of finding offshore oil and of increasing copper production but it is uranium that has the greatest potential.*

MAURITANIA'S iron ore exports from the mines at Zouerate are the backbone of the country's economy. However, the government of President Mohammed Khouna Ould Haydalla has made considerable attempts over the past year to diversify Mauritania's exploitation of its resources. Efforts are being concentrated on prospecting for untapped mineral wealth and studying ways of renewing the copper mining activities suspended in 1978.

The Somima copper mine at the town of Akjoujt suffered considerable losses two years ago when the world price for copper slumped — mining operations were making a loss of about \$1m a month. The mine, which had been nationalised in 1977, was closed down pending a more favourable outlook for copper on the world commodity markets.

The Akjoujt deposit, 160 kilometres northeast of Nouakchott, consists of two layers oxidised copper, reserves of which are now practically exhausted, and a remaining 16.9m tonnes of sulphurised copper containing 2.25 per cent copper and 1.3 grams of gold a tonne.

Mauritania has been a small copper producer compared to Zambia, Zaire or Chile. Even in 1974, its top year, only 24,000 tonnes were exported. The copper was refined using the advanced Torco process which was both excessively capital intensive and required a high level of energy input. Because the mineral content in the sulphurised deposits is relatively low, Mauritania has commissioned the UK firm Seltrust to study the feasibility of refining it by means of a new treatment plant, which would be better adapted to local conditions.

We estimate that the new investment outlay could be as high as \$55m. Mohammed Ould Zamel, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, told 8 DAYS. Discussions have been initiated with a number of potential financial sources and aid donors, such as the Amman-based Arab Mining Company, which is already engaged in the new Guelb iron ore scheme. Ultimately, the world copper outlook in coming years will be the decisive factor in determining the future of the Akjoujt mine.

Uranium undoubtedly has greater long term potential for Mauritania. Prospecting got under way before the outbreak of the Western Sahara conflict in 1975. Exploration efforts were concentrated in the northern part of the country, between Bir Moghrein and Ain Ben Tili, a region familiarly known as Dorsale Beguibat. The first results were considered positive, but the French prospecting firms had to abandon work due to the insecurity generated by Polisario raids.

Now that security can again be guaranteed in the region, after the August 1979 peace treaty between Mauritania and the Polisario, exploration has begun again. At the end of last year, a concession was awarded to a Franco-Japanese consortium consisting of the Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique Total-Nucleaire, Pechiney-Ugine-Kuhlman (PUK) and the Tokyo Uranium Development Corporation.

It takes about ten years to develop uranium mines. In the meantime, Mauritanian officials are planning to boost output at the gypsum deposits, which are situated about 55 kilometres north of the capital, at Sebkhah N'Drahamcha. Reserves are estimated at several million tonnes, containing up to 96 per cent gypsum.

Though some is used in local construction, most of the production is exported to neighbouring Senegal for use in its cement works. Output has increased from 8,000 tonnes in 1974 to 16,000 last year. This figure is expected to top 20,000 tonnes for the first time this year. The government hopes to develop markets in western Europe and Latin America when the Chinese-funded Nouakchott deep water port is completed in 1982.

Exploration for oil in the 1960s and early 1970s did not fulfill expectations. The Atlantic basin zone, around Nouakchott, saw eleven wells drilled. Two revealed deposits of crude oil and natural gas, but not in commercially viable quantities. The Tindouf basin, near the Algerian frontier, proved to be another disappointment. Nor were explorations in the Taoudenni area — covering the central part of the country to the Mahan border — any more successful.

Now hopes are centred on the coastal area around the port of Nouadhibou. The

French firm Beicip recently prepared a seismic study of 40,000 sq kms of this region. Nine zones were delineated: three onshore, three on the continental plateau (less than 200 metres of water) and three in deep water.

Hopes are high for the offshore prospecting efforts currently being carried out by an international consortium consisting of Hispanoil of Spain which acts as operator, Italy's Agip, Phillips and Esso of the US. The first test well was bored last spring.

Even if results are positive, it will take some years to bring the deposits on stream. In the meantime, Mauritania is counting on Algeria to provide high quality crude oil for its refinery at Nouadhibou. Completed in 1978 at a cost of \$80m, so far it has never been used. During the Western Sahara conflict, Algeria withdrew its offer to provide oil, and certain technical anomalies were discovered.

The refinery contractor, Voest-Alpine of Austria, has since agreed to provide financial compensation. Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Mamadou Cissoko reckons that with an additional \$2m investment outlay the refinery could rapidly be brought on stream. The Islamic development Bank has reportedly agreed to finance the purchase of the refinery's oil throughout the first year of production.

Phosphate reserves, in the southern part of the country near the Senegal river, do not seem large enough for export. However, they could be used for the small-scale production of fertilisers badly needed by local agriculture. Finally, known rare-earth deposits, (oxide of lanthanide element), increasingly important in the electronics industry, could give another filip to Mauritania's economic development.

# PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT GETS TOP PRIORITY

Manama GULF MIRROR in English 27 Sep-3 Oct 80 p 25

[Article by Peter Witton]

[Text]

THE giant petrochemical complex planned for Bahrain is to be built on land reclaimed from the sea, it was announced this week.

Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company, jointly owned by the Bahraini, Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabian governments, also named the first contracts for the \$400 million "top priority" project.

Wimpey Laboratories of Britain has been commissioned to survey the site off Sitra Island, and Dutch firm King-Wilkinson is to supply technical expertise.

Gulf Petrochemical Industries' chairman Dr Tawfiq Almoayyed said: "From now on all systems are go. We have completed two years' work in eight months."

## Roadway

A decision is expected shortly on which system of production will be used for the plant's 700,000 tons-a-year output of ammonia and methanol.

The site, next to Bapco's loading jetty, will be connected to Sitra Island by a 1.25-kilometre roadway. Dredging

and land reclamation should cost around \$10 million but an exact figure will depend on tenders submitted.

Dr Almoayyed said local firms will be asked to submit tenders in the next few weeks, with the contract being awarded around December. The site should be ready for the main contractor in late spring.

## Manpower

Tendering for the main contract should be underway in the first quarter of 1981 and "the winner should start work before next summer," said Dr Almoayyed.

The project is being given the highest priority by the three governments and should be onstream by 1983.

A board meeting this week selected King-Wilkinson to act as technical consultants, providing design and process engineers.

Manpower requirements were also finalised, and it was decided the finished complex will have a staff of about 350.

The contract with Wimpey International was signed earlier in the week and soil analysis began immediately, said Dr Almoayyed.

20,000 RUSH FOR SHARES IN NEW STEEL COMPANY

Manama GULF MIRROR in English 27 Sep-3 Oct 80 p 25

[Text]

THE expected last-minute rush for public shares in the Arab Iron and Steel Company led to an oversubscription of nearly 42 times, it was announced this week.

By Sunday's deadline for the \$48 million float more than 20,000 applications had been received by the four Bahraini receiving banks.

A few days before closure only 500 applications had arrived for the offshore company which plans to build a \$300 million iron pelletisation plant near Asry drydock.

Investors borrowing money for shares normally wait until the last day or two to avoid paying interest on their loans. This happened with AIIIC, though the response was modest compared with the 1,263 oversubscription for Gulf Investment Company's \$25 million issue last October.

Mr Ghazi Al Musawi, deputy general manager of Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait — one the receiving banks — said he was "very pleased" with the outcome.

He thought it reflected a more "normal" response than previous oversubscriptions of many hundreds of times.

Only half of the \$48 million is being called for and the issue was open only to Gulf nationals, excluding Bahrainis. Financial sources say 90 per cent of the applicants came from Kuwait.

The process of allocation and refunds is now underway. Investors are being allocated 2,405 shares for every 100,000 for which they applied and 241 for every 10,000.

The 50 cent shares are already trading for more than \$1 each, but this is considered normal immediately after a share closure.

CSO: 4820

AL-RAQQAH, TARTUS PROVINCES WORK ON FIFTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 15 Jul 80 p 4

[Text] The office of planning in the province of al-Raqqah has recently prepared the basic phase of the Fifth Five-Year Plan (1981-1985) in coordination with the executive office of the provincial administration and agencies concerned in the governorate.

The necessary appropriations to complete the projects already started under the Fourth Five-Year Plan have been set at 27.773 million Syrian pounds. A total of 52.19 million pounds has also been approved for the renovation and maintenance of existing productive capacity.

The province's projects include afforestation, education, schools, housing, utilities, municipal services, communication and water projects.

In Aleppo, the directorate of agriculture and agrarian reform has just completed preparation of the basic phase of its Fifth Five Year Plan.

A responsible source in the directorate announced yesterday that the plan for the agricultural sector was drawn up in accordance with the following considerations:

1. Increasing acreage irrigated by rivers by 1,000 hectares annually, taking into account the need to raise the capacity of pumps on the rivers.
2. Intensifying cultivation of river-irrigated lands by 173 percent.
3. Intensifying cultivation of unirrigated land, and increasing their area by 700 hectares annually.
4. Increasing fruit tree yield by 6 percent.

This study was submitted to the ministry of agriculture and agrarian reform in order to examine, discuss and adopt it in its final form.

On the other hand, Mr Danhu Da'ud, the governor of Tartus province discussed with members of the executive office of the provincial administration

and the mayor [of Tartus], in the presence of the secretary of the local branch of the [Ba'ath] party, the progress of work on services and utilities projects which are underway, and projects set to be implemented this year. A total of 79.62 million pounds is appropriated for the latter.

The governor of Tartus also discussed the subject of the industrial zone and the need to award a contract for its construction to a public sector company. Expenditures on the industrial zone will reach 25 million pounds.

The governor also discussed with the director of housing and public works programs on improving the mechanical and electrical equipment and the two pumps of the Shamasis water projects, and the need to put the project into operation as quickly as possible in order to supply the villages which will benefit from it.

9614

CSO: 4802

## ALEPPO MAYOR OUTLINES HOUSING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Damascus AL-BATH in Arabic 13 Jul 80 p 4

[Article: "A Review of Construction Projects in Aleppo"]

[Text] The mayor of Aleppo announced yesterday that during his recent visit to Damascus, he reviewed with the minister of local administration the new construction projects for which preparation and planning are under-way. Foremost among them is the large Bab al-Faraj project, the sport city and the park construction projects. The latter include the public park which will be built in the Bab Aliah quarter, and aim at [beautifying?] the city, particularly in residential districts.

The mayor explained that he brought up with the minister the matter of setting up a services company in Aleppo for road and highway construction, maintenance and (roadside tree planting). It would be like the [Qasium?] Company in Damascus. The minister promised that he would support all municipal projects and set aside the necessary credits for them in order to promote the development of the city.

The mayor added that he discussed with the minister of housing and utilities public housing projects in Aleppo. As a result of this meeting, it was decided to increase the number of housing units designated for the city of Aleppo from 5,000 to 10,000 units. It was also agreed to conclude a contract with the Military Housing Agency to build 1,000 units over a period of 2.5 years. Another 2,000 units are to be completed during the same period. Another 5,000 housing units are reserved for fellow citizens who will be displaced by the new principal street projects. A contract to build these 5,000 units all at once will be concluded this year. As for the remaining 3,000 [should be 2,000] units, they will be completed as part of the Fifth Five Year Plan.

The mayor declared that the new housing units will be distributed among fellow countrymen affected by the municipal redevelopment projects, especially in the downtown area. There, the municipality will build the first opera house in Aleppo and an Arab cultural center.



Housing units will also be distributed to residents of al-Maghayir and al-Tallah al-Sawda', who will be evacuated from their homes.

The mayor concluded: "The municipality of Aleppo is making serious efforts with the Military Housing Agency to buy 2,000 prefabricated housing units for the Hamdaniyah district of Aleppo, these being out of the 10,000 units set aside for Aleppo."

9614

CSO: 4802

## NEED FOR ALTERNATE SOURCES OF ENERGY STRESSED

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 20 Jul 80 p 1

[Article: "Our Consumption of Energy Is Rising 10 Percent Annually: When Will We Be Forced To Import Oil?"]

[text] According to a study by Dr Ahmad 'Umar Yusuf, minister of electricity, on energy in the nation, Syria produces 10 million tons of crude oil annually and imports another 3 million tons of light oil needed to balance the heavy Syrian oil. Accordingly, the Hims refinery is producing 5.2 million tons of petroleum products, and it is expected that the Banyas refinery output will reach 6 million tons.

Petroleum is the greatest source for the production of electric power. Waterfalls account for only 8 percent in this domain. A forecast of petroleum consumption in the country indicates that it will reach 5.35 million tons in the current year. In 1985, it will amount to around 9.33 million tons; in 1995 it will reach 19.24 million tons; and in the year 2000, it will reach 26.93 million tons.

In his study, the minister of electricity sees that alternate forms of energy must be found by 1985, if we are to remain self-sufficient in securing energy, until we begin setting up and exploiting nuclear power stations to generate electricity. This is especially important, because consumption of energy in Syria is increasing at a steady rate of 10 percent annually, as a result of the horizontal increase in consumers, who comprise 60 percent of the population; the vertical increase in individual consumption; and industrial and agricultural development.

The minister of electricity estimates that we will be forced to import crude oil after 1985, if new oil fields are not discovered.

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PRODUCTION, USE OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS IN SYRIA DISCUSSED

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 13 Jul 80 p 4

[Report on Interview with Ahmad al-Turk, Director General of the General Fertilizers Company, by Ghassan Al-Balu', in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] The first consultative meeting on developing markets for fertilizers in the Arab states was held in Damascus from 6 to 10 July. The meeting was called for by the Arab League's Industrial Development Center, in cooperation with the [Syrian] General Chemical Industries Agency. The purpose was to study the long-term program to develop the chemical fertilizer industry and the use of chemical fertilizers in the Arab states.

Representatives from the following Arab states attended the meeting: Jordan, the U.A.E., Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya and Somalia, in addition to Syria.

During the meetings, AL-BA'TH met with several of the chiefs of delegations participating in the meeting. It was our reporter's first encounter with Engineer Ahmad al-Turk, the Director General of the Syrian General Fertilizers Company.

[Question] Will Syria export chemical fertilizers to the Arab markets? What are the agencies that would export them?

[Answer] Syria has not yet begun to export fertilizers at all, due to the fact that current production is being set aside for domestic use, in accordance with the agricultural intensification plan. When a surplus does show up, Syria will turn to Arab markets first, in view of our pan-Arab orientations.

[Question] What are our proposals in the area of marketing coordination with the Arab countries?

[Answer] Syria presented at the meeting a working paper which covered two basic points:

1. Taking care of the need of Arab markets for fertilizers produced exclusively in Arab factories; and
2. Coordinating the activities of Arab producers in world markets, so that they will be competitors, not rivals.

[Question] What is the expected production of Triple Super Phosphate and Ammonia Boric fertilizers? When will their production commence, and how much will the country use these two types.

[Answer] Production will begin at the Triple Super Phosphate and Ammonia Boric plants at the end of 1980 at 70 percent of actual capacities, that is, at around 315 thousand tons of Triple Super Phosphate and 230 thousand tons of Ammonia Boric fertilizers. The nation will consume 40 percent of the volume of actual production. The remainder will be surplus for export.

[Question] Will our local consumption of chemical fertilizers grow, and what is the current average level of consumption by Syrian farmers?

[Answer] The country's use of chemical fertilizers will grow by increasing annual amounts following the agricultural intensification plan laid down by the Higher Agricultural Council. However, farmers are still using fertilizers in smaller amounts than ought to be used.

[Question] What are our plans in the areas of packaging, transport and distribution? Do we have the necessary machinery and personnel for such enterprises?

[Answer] The General Fertilizers Company has ample resources for packaging and storing. As for transport and distribution of the fertilizers, they are the responsibility of other agencies--the Cooperative Agricultural Bank domestically, and the General Fertilizers Company abroad. The company is now planning to build an installation to store and ship the fertilizers by way of Tartus harbor.

[Question] Have detailed studies of fertilizer costs and appropriate export prices been drawn up?

[Answer] A special committee has been formed to study Arab and world markets in terms of appropriate export prices. We should bear in mind that the country's entry into discussions on the export of fertilizers would have no connection with our study of costs, since export prices are determined by world markets.

9614

CSO: 4802

## STATUS OF COOPERATION WITH ALGERIA VIEWED

## Trying for Possibilities

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 18 Sep 80 pp 1, 7

[Article by Abdelwaheb Abdallah]

[Text] Tunis-Rabat, Tunis-Algiers: the two official visits made lately by Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, to Morocco and to Algeria, clearly go beyond the context of bilateral relations. In their immediate consequences, but above all in their potential extensions, they fit into a clearly Maghreb-wide perspective.

This movement to go beyond is natural. It flows from a geopolitical law which says that every benefic action taken between two states of the Maghreb inevitably has repercussions on the whole region, directly or indirectly, in the short or the long term.

Much has been written about these visits and their possible consequences. It is fitting to emphasize, however, that in bilateral terms, as much in the first visit as in the second, Tunisia and Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria, give the clear impression that both their similarities and their differences they are resolved to make a sincere move toward rapprochement and toward a kind of cooperation that is more in keeping with what reality is imposing on them, with their mutual interests, and with their destiny.

The impression is that we are in the process of going beyond romanticism to grasp instead for what is palpable, for what is achievable and thus credible. We are passing from dreams and pious hopes to a more realistic vision, which consists in trying for the possible and making progress starting from the possible.

This new dynamic takes account of a double demand, political and human. Beyond the classical notion of cooperation imposed by proximity and the nature of things, the countries of the Maghreb owe it to themselves to establish relations on the scale of the regional whole which they make up.

Facing their differences courageously, they recognize the truth that no country--and especially not in the countries of the Third World--can at this point play the lone cowboy in the face of the blocs and various ambitions. "The daily exercise of power should have strengthened us in our conviction that joint action is the best way to achieve the prosperity of our peoples," said President Bourguiba in 1965.

That is the political demand. The human demand is no less evident. The greater ease of circulation of people in the last few months between Algeria and Tunisia is moreover bound to improve the image that each has of the other and to conquer prejudices.

The two official visits with which Mr Mohamed Mzali inaugurates his new assumption of the duties of prime minister are without a doubt successful.

Both in Morocco and in Algeria, Mr Mzali both said and heard new things; new in bilateral terms, but new also in terms of the Maghreb. What has happened is that there is less emotion with respect to certain problems that still exist, and a manifest determination to see things progressing. This is the indisputable sign of "ripening."

The favorable changes, at the bilateral level in any case, did not happen by chance. They result assuredly from political transformations in which the human factor played a role of the first magnitude in the event. There are certainly interests, the balance of power, etc...but there is sometimes also a human parameter. It can be enough...When "the current is moving," many things become simpler.

The quality of the reception and the first results achieved leave no doubt about the sincerity of the proposals. They demonstrate the existence of a new climate of confidence and the political will to change.

New men and new words: both legitimate reasons for believing in the future; both legitimate reasons for believing that "the current that passed" between two partners can pass between three. More than a wish, it is an imperative. The region thirsts for peace. The people of the Maghreb, firmly tied to their national realities and jealous of their independence, aspire to understand each other better, to help each other better to conceive and to build, together, their future.

#### Identity of Views

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 18 Sep 80 p 7

[Text] The visit of Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali to Algeria 7-9 September and the contacts he had with several Algerian leaders have shed new light on positions common to both Tunisia and Algeria on the big Arab and international problems.

## Greater Maghreb

It is necessary to recall that the idea of creating a Maghreb is not in its infancy.

Certainly, the common determination to carry out this imperial action continually faces multiple challenges. The greatest obstacle to its creation remains, to be sure, "the Western Sahara affair."

Everything leads us to believe that this obstacle will someday be smoothed out.

## Palestinian Problem

The same common determination inspires the two peace-loving peoples to unceasingly express to whoever wants to listen their absolute support for the Palestinian cause and for the untiring struggle of the Palestinian people to reconquer their freedom which is socked by the Zionist state of Israel.

Aware of the necessity for complete cohesion in the Palestinian ranks, the two countries justly consider that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in their struggle to win back their despoiled homeland.

The two countries have expressed their unshakeable conviction at the summits in Bagdad and Tunis. Similarly, they have deplored and still deplore any separate accord which can only create disunity in the Arab ranks.

In this connection, the two delegations judged that the travesty of peace established between Egypt and Israel constitutes less a durable solution than a dangerous breach in Arab ranks. To remedy this state of affairs, the two delegations reiterated their determination to strengthen Palestinian forces and to prevent the Zionist enemy from making El Qods its capital.

To this end, they issued a very strong appeal to all peace-loving powers to turn back the pernicious Zionists from their aims.

## The Mediterranean

Also, the two countries accord particular importance to peace in the Mediterranean--against any attempt [to disrupt it]; the Mediterranean has become, in recent years, a zone subject to the most opposed influences.

Aware that peace depends in the first place on the countries of the region, the two delegations expressed interest in maintaining peace in the Mediterranean. This aim can only be attained by putting an end to all the sources of tension which exist there.



### Nonalignment

As "pioneers" of nonalignment, Tunisia and Algeria have always been in the vanguard of the movement.

Mr Mzali's visit was the occasion, both for the Tunisians and for the Algerians, to reaffirm their attachment to nonalignment and their unwearied determination to take whatever actions are necessary to keep alive the movement, its principles, and above all its unity.

### Africa

In the course of their talks, the two delegations paid considerable attention to African causes. The peoples of both Tunisia and Algeria cannot fail to defend just causes aiming at the banishing of the colonial legacy.

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CSO: 4400

## ENERGY COMMITTEE PREPARES SIXTH PLAN

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 7 Sep 80 p 4

[Text] Abdelaziz Lasram, minister of the National Economy, presided over a meeting in his department of the National Commission on Regional Energy.

The meeting was devoted to the preparation of the Sixth Energy Development Plan.

In a talk delivered on this occasion the minister first analyzed the previous decade, 1972-1981, and summarized Tunisia's energy situation. He then suggested that the National Commission direct its efforts in the following directions:

1. Maximum and purposeful use of the country's resources themselves in order to improve the energy balance.
2. The establishment of a schedule of energy consumption by categories through a national survey.
3. An inventory of all financial and technical resources to control the consumption of energy and to avoid waste.
4. A diversification of supply sources and of types of products.
5. The development of research into basic energy resources (lignite, coal, oil, etc.) and acceleration of studies on the use of new forms of energy (solar).

At the end of the meeting and after a work timetable for the National Commission was set up, it was decided to create seven sub-committees:

- Sub-committee on electricity
- Sub-committee on gas
- Sub-committee on oil research and production
- Sub-committee on refining
- Sub-committee on new forms of energy
- Sub-committee on distribution and transportation
- Sub-committee on consumption and prices.

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CSO: 4400

## DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR NEXT DECADE

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 7 Sep 80 p 4

[Text] On Friday evening Driss Guiga, member of the Political Office and Minister of the Interior, presided at the meeting of the Sidi Bouzid Coordinating Committee, a meeting of Party and regional administrators.

On this occasion and in the name of the chief of state, the minister decorated a certain number of Destourian militants with the insignia of Chevalier of the Order of Independence.

In his speech Driss Guiga spoke of the up-coming meeting of the PSD [Destourian Socialist Party] scheduled for spring 1981, emphasizing that the base representatives to this meeting would be asked to formulate the broad outlines of development policy for the coming decade.

Guiga pointed out that this meeting will examine methods of establishing a proper balance between economic growth and social evolution paying particular attention to certain aspects of development which had been neglected until now. It will at the same time look into ways of achieving the desired balance in economic growth among regions as well as increases in the number of jobs by strengthening economic growth in the regions where an effort at industrialization proves to be necessary.

Driss Guiga stressed that the establishment of the desired balance does not at all mean recourse to easy solutions, much less to preventing anyone from reaping the rewards of his efforts in order to satisfy someone else, but rather implies serious consideration of the methods likely to promote greater contributions on the part of citizens to the state's effort to improve conditions of life for the economically weak.

As far as the launching of industrial projects in underdeveloped areas is concerned, the minister of the Interior pointed out that it is up to industrial promoters from the areas which need substantial increases in the number of available jobs to plan for construction of industrial units in these regions.

Guiga emphasized that launching a project in one region or another must not in any way reflect a tendency toward tribalism or regionalism, noting that national unity and the links forged among militants by the struggle for a common cause ought to be the guarantee of the success of the project undertaken to achieve prosperity for all Tunisians.

## BRIEFS

BOURGUIBA SIGNS DECREES--President Bourguiba conferred at the Essaada Palace in La Marsa at noon yesterday with Prime Minister Mohamed Mazali, who presented the following decrees to the chief of state for his signature: --a decree regarding a movement among law officials; --a decree naming Mohamed Abdessalem, a university professor, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in Tunis. The president of the Republic ratified an agreement between the Republic of Tunisia and the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg on social security. He also ratified an agreement between Tunisia and the Belgian-Tunisian Economic Union on international road transportation and freight signed in Tunis on 7 July 1980, the ratification of the 1978 formal agreement from the 1973 international convention on the prevention of marine pollution, and the approval of the agreement regarding technical obstacles to business. [Text] [Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 7 Sep 80 p 4] 8693

CSO: 4400

BEHIND SCENES ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN TALKS UNCONFIRMED

Paris LE MONDE in French 14-15 Sep 80 p 4

[Article by Roland Delcour: "The Saharan Conflict"]

[Text] At the end of the fifth session in Freetown of the "ad hoc" committee of the OAU [Organization of African Unity], which had been charged with resolving the Western Sahara problem, the six "wise men" of the committee (Nigeria, Tanzania, Mali, Guinea, Sudan and Sierra Leone), recommended the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the 16th summit meeting in Monrovia in 1979--after having heard the opinions of all concerned--to wit: a cease-fire followed by an "appropriate and general" referendum. In addition, they set a date--no later than December 1980--for setting up the cease-fire under the supervision of the UN "blue helmets." The referendum would be organized by the OAU with the assistance of the United Nations.

No official communique has been published by the OAU and the committee's six recommendations will not be published officially before the OAU secretary general, Mr Edem Kodjo, has brought them to the attention of the parties concerned and the African heads of state.

Rabat Stands by Its Positions.

The first comments made by the Moroccan Government on the resolution adopted on Thursday, 11 September by the "Committee of the African Wise Men" in Freetown, are harsh judging by the press conference held immediately after the end of the meeting by Mr Boucetta, minister of foreign affairs, and broadcast on Friday evening over the Moroccan radio.

After having noted that the "recommendations" of the wise men must be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote by the OAU summit conference, the minister made reference to Morocco's positions which are complete opposition to the two main points of the Freetown resolution.

With reference to the cease-fire, he declared that Morocco "had never opened fire" except when Morocco was under attack. He is not the person one must ask to stop firing; it is the "aggressor," i.e., the POLISARIO.

There is the same total opposition to the second main problem, i.e., the referendum. Morocco, Mr Boucetta declared in substance, has demonstrated its willingness to cooperate, within the African framework, by sending to Freetown delegates of the Western Sahara people, authentic representatives of the Saharan population who, in the past, fought against the Spanish occupation.

On the whole, according to Mr Boucetta, the committee of the wise men has only taken up again "what had already been done before without adding anything dynamic or without searching for a peaceful solution."

The only new element, according to the Moroccan minister, is a certain hesitation in considering the POLISARIO as being representative; a hesitation which was revealed by the appeal to the UN armed forces charged with overseeing the cease-fire. This recourse to the United Nations appeared to be, according to the Moroccan minister, only a way of "shrugging off its responsibilities" on the part of the OAU.

Outside of these statements, comments on Algeria's attitude are more subtle. Noting the presence in Freetown of President Chadli, some observers draw the conclusion that Algeria played a decisive role, as usual, in the drawing up of the Freetown resolution and in its adoption by majority vote. According to these observers, Algeria would have realized these objectives only by renouncing to carry out its efforts, as one might have expected, after the OAU session of last July in Freetown, on the admission of the "Saharan Republic" in the United Nations. This time Algeria appeared to prefer presenting requirements which were easier to get accepted, such as a referendum, and more popular, such as a proclamation of a cease-fire. Likewise, the appeal to the United Nations was reportedly an attempt to go beyond the limits of the OAU where, last July, Algeria reportedly loaded the vote in favor of recognition and admission of the SADR [Saharan Arab Democratic Republic] into the African organization. From that possibility to believing that Algeria, in Freetown, might have adopted a relatively moderate attitude, there is only one step that some observers happily take by alluding again to the possibility of direct negotiations between Algeria and Morocco. Nevertheless, the rumors were wide-spread last July and August regarding Algerian and Moroccan negotiations behind the scenes have received no confirmation from any quarter.

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